



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

March 31, 2014

Mike Spaits  
Public Affairs Officer  
96 TW/ PA  
101 West D Avenue, Suite 236  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5499

Subject: EPA's Comments on the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for F-35 Beddown at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida. CEQ No. 20130164

Dear Mr. Spaits:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 reviewed the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for F-35 Beddown at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida.

This FSEIS is the result of the Joint Program Office (JPO) releasing new noise profiles for the F-35 aircraft; consequently, the Air Force delayed the release of the previous Draft SEIS to ensure it included the most accurate information. Meanwhile, the final Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative (GRASI) recommendations became available and the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) revised the operational plans for the F-35 aircraft. The Air Force has revised the FSEIS to address the updated noise profiles, the GRASI recommendations and the revised operational plans.

Based on the information in the FSEIS, it appears that you have addressed our primary concerns on flight operations and noise as it relates to the impacts on children, the Environmental Justice (EJ) community and water quality. EPA also recommends a comprehensive monitoring program to ensure that the ongoing impacts from military training are assessed and appropriately addressed/mitigated once identified. In addition, the specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the FSEIS should be applied and adequately enforced to attain appropriate results.

We recommend that you continue to keep the community informed on The F-35 project status. We appreciate your coordination with us. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Gissentanna of my staff at 404-562- 8248 (gissentanna.larry@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ramona K. McConney for". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "McConney" being the most prominent part.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Environmental Accountability